

## THE FALL AND RISE OF NOAH

### Cell Notes

**Genesis 9:20-21** Noah = songs? Children's story?

Noah went back to being a farmer – it was his **comfort zone** - easy in our comfort zone to lose our **focus**. Noah's focus - **work** (vineyard - we can become focused on work), **alcohol** (we can too), **body** (we can too) maybe unintentional but still lost focus – what does this mean? **Romans 1:20-25**

Harold Best 'Unceasing Worship': created *imago Dei* (in God's image) so, like God, 'we were created continuously outpouring' not created *to* outpour worship. His definition of worship: 'the continuous outpouring of all that I am, all that I do and all that I can ever become in light of a chosen or choosing god'. We are all worshippers, Peter Kreeft said: 'opposite of theism not atheism but idolatry'.

Was **Noah** an idol worshipper? Are we idol worshippers? Martin Luther said the default for the human heart is idolatry essentially taking creation (things and people) and putting it in the place of Creator (God). We create **personal hells** for ourselves so make ourselves need a personal, functional saviour but nothing can replace **Jesus** as Saviour! In themselves can be good things, blessings from God but our focus needs to be on Him! To bring our families the most joy we should worship God *with* them, not worship *them*. Great examples of functional saviours used in advertising.

Sin is **fruit** caused by **root** of idol worship – one example is sexual immorality - worshipping idol of the body like **Noah**. Noah's instinct was to get naked. Perhaps we try to deal with the sin (the fruit) not the worship lifestyle (the root)? Our worship needs to turn to Jesus! Note body not a bad thing - **Genesis 1:31** 'very good' so I like Mark Driscoll's 'taking a good thing and turning it into a god thing'. George Orwell - 1984 about things we hate enslaving us, Aldous Huxley - Brave New World about things we love enslaving us . . . which is more accurate? **Love!** We are willing victims to its enslavement.

**Addictive** – slaves to our idolatry and to sin **Romans 6:16** H. Wayne House said about being a slave to righteousness is like 'a servant to a kind master who gives great rewards'. We justify our idolatry - victim syndrome, Bible verses like 'more than a conqueror' – we create our own prosperity gospel. From Romans 6 idolatry leads to sin = death - become like what we worship - Jesus become like Him; idolatry become like that . . . **AND ONLY THAT!**

Obedience leads to righteousness (romans 6:16) - Noah was a righteous man (Genesis 6:10)

**Genesis 6:5** but **Gen 6:9** CHEN - acceptance, grace! Martin Luther - The Great Exchange

**Isaiah 61:10 Hebrews 11:7**

How do we respond? Only one way – gratefulness! The beauty is that the best way to worship Jesus to be grateful, celebrate and rejoice – **death is swallowed up in victory!**

***Application:***

Please select from the following. Encourage all to take part and to be honest; in what ways are people to change as a result of the word? Make sure there is time to pray for one another.

1. Was anything said that needs clarifying?
2. What did God say to you and what are you going to do as a result?
3. In what areas of your life are you worshipping something, or someone, other than Jesus (see additional questions below)?
4. What can we do to make sure we do not fall into idolatry?
5. What is your response to the truth of 'The Great Exchange'?
6. Pray for one another to be filled with the Holy Spirit that we may receive more self-control, and that we become more and more grateful for what Jesus did for us.

**What is my idol?** *Ask the following questions to identify our idols:*

What am I most afraid of?

What do I long for most passionately?

Where do I run for comfort?

What do I complain about most?

What angers me most?

What makes me happiest?

How do I introduce myself/define myself?

What would I brag about?

What would I sacrifice for?

Whose approval do I need?

What comfort do you most treasure?